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Services Division
European Satellite Committee

Meeting of 29 October 1958

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Present: [REDACTED] Chief, D/S; [REDACTED] S/COM; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] S/TF; Edel, [REDACTED] S/TR; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] A/E; [REDACTED] A/FC; [REDACTED] A/U; [REDACTED] I/MS; [REDACTED] M/FP; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] M/FM; [REDACTED] M/NF.

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Dr. [REDACTED] gave some of his general impressions of Poland that he feels are not sufficiently stressed in our economic reporting. For instance, he said one of the things he observed was the poor state of dental repair. On inquiring as to the reason for this, he was told that one-third of the dentists in Poland in 1939 were Jewish, and the extermination by the Nazis of Jews in all professions left a professional void that has not as yet been made up. Because of this critical shortage of professional people, many have to serve in more than one capacity. The Chairman of the Economic Planning Commission is also a University professor and a deputy in Parliament.

He went on to discuss other demographic problems, such as the imbalance in the sex ratio. There are 108 females to 100 males in the country. Another problem is the high fertility rate. There is a net increase of 500,000 births over deaths per year, which creates many problems in planning. The population factors affect education and employment, too.

The housing situation is very tight, and much of the rubble left from war devastation is still visible. He said the structures built since the war seem to be of poor construction and in bad shape. He thought it was a paradox of planning that some sectors of Warsaw and Poznan were being rebuilt exactly as they were before World War II--even to using the original blueprints.

He thought, too, there was a much narrower spread in income distribution than in the USSR.

He said the Poles were struggling with prices and were having difficulties ascertaining realistic price and cost relationships. They have no conception of accounting as we know it but are trying to establish some sort of system to find out what things really cost them.

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██████████ visited factories, cooperatives, and state collectives. He visited the Lublin truck factory where he observed an assembly-line process with all parts marked SSR. The textile plants he saw had old British Manchester machinery. There were many women working in all the factories he visited.

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██████████ he thought the machine tools he observed that were produced by the Poles were of good quality. He thought, too, that the Poles' machine tools were not being accepted by the West for political reasons.

In discussing the possibility of expanding export goods to us, he said the Poles think artistic handicraft such as leather, silver, lace, peasant blouses, could be sold to the U. S. because they had a ready-made market of 7 million "American Polonia".

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██████████ had other interesting ideas on exchange rates, Polish women, etc.,

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(Now 5)
At next week's meeting we have several miscellaneous items to take up:

a) Content, availability, and dissemination of foreign language publications. At the request of several analysts we would like to discuss methods whereby material in these publications can get to the analyst who needs it. We have invited Mrs. ██████████ to answer questions on problems that may arise during this discussion.

b) Future programs and plans for Committee Activities.

The meeting will be held at 1330 hours in Room 1121 M Building.

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Secretary

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